

Patricia Ann Kazmar

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

January 11, 2002

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

In addressing the U.S. vs. Microsoft case, I am confident that the recent settlement reached in November of last year serves the interests of the state, the IT industry, and the economy. Microsoft has played a large role in the well being of our economy and the resurgence of Microsoft back into the economy can only make things better. The Department of Justice will be free to focus on more pressing matters, Microsoft will concentrate on product development, and the public can be rest assured that their best interest is being taken into consideration.

Included in the agreement are restrictions that extend to several issues addressed in the case as well as those that were not found unlawful in the Court of Appeals. These restrictions were reached after a great deal of effort over the course of three years, and thus each detail of the settlement is fair and reasonable. Microsoft has granted to computer makers the right to replace features of Windows with non-Microsoft software programs. Microsoft has already begun changes in their business practices as demonstrated by the release of Windows XP: a new version of Windows that promotes the competition.

Furthermore, Microsoft will be monitored by a Three-person Technical committee that will ensure that Microsoft follow the restrictions and obligations stated in the settlement.

Clearly, this settlement proves to contain reasonable and fair solutions. I hope that my opinion has helped to finalize the last course of action in this case. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Patricia Ann Kazmar
Cc: Senator Rick Santorum